

FRANCISCAN BROTHERS GUILD

Bishop Ford Diocesan High School, Brooklyn, N. Y.

December 6, 1963

Franciscan Education Flounders On \$ \$ \$

There are presently nineteen Franciscan Brothers who staff Bishop Ford Diocesan High School. Among them they either hold, or are near acquisition of, thirty-eight degrees of higher learning at a cost to their Congregation of the Franciscan Brothers of more than \$160,000.00. This figure is representative of the exorbitant fees charged for course work, extra fees, campus expenses and the inhibiting cost of travel to and from fifteen colleges and universities throughout America where these nineteen Brothers have studied.

These nineteen Brothers are Religious professing a Vow of Poverty and therefore they receive no individual salary whatsoever. If these men were engaged in secular education their yearly combined remuneration would be in excess of \$155,000.00. However, they are engaged in Christian education and have dedicated their entire being to the molding of youth to participate in secular endeavors as well as formulating Christ, as the Way, Truth and Life, into the very fiber of the lives of those students who come under their care. For this service the Congregation of the Franciscan Brothers receive no tuition from the students, but the Brooklyn diocese supports their daily needs. This support, however, can not even be applied to meet the educational expenses of these Brothers, much less to contribute to the needs of any Religious Congregation of caring for its old or training those young men who come to join them and their desperately needed work.

The services which the Brother offers the Catholic youth of the Diocese are not at all totally enumerated. In accord with their philosophy of the "whole man", these nineteen Franciscan Brothers endeavor to supply for every need of their students—those needs which are social, cultural and physical as well as those religious and educational. The working hours of the Brother certainly do not begin at 9:00 A.M. and finish at 3:00 P.M. Most of the Brothers often spend twelve to fourteen hours, or frequently longer, in their working day.

The nineteen Franciscan Brothers who staff Bishop Ford High School have been engaged in this way of life for a combined service of 210 years, giving an average of 10½ years' experience per Brother. What's more, not only have the Franciscan Brothers provided all of these services, but in effect the Congregation of the Franciscan Brothers has donated to every family of a student at Bishop Ford an amount in excess of two hundred dollars. Simple calculation of this sum is determined by dividing the number of the present student body (800) into the total expenditure of their education—\$160,000.00.

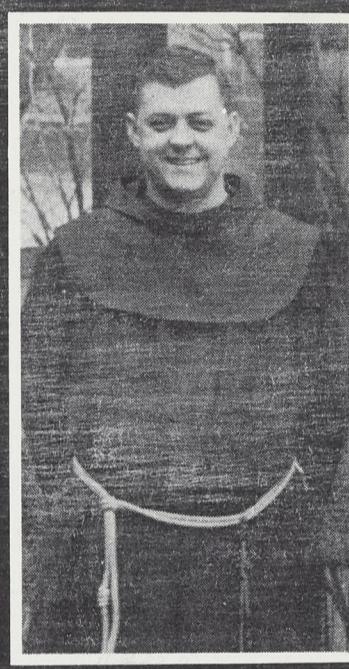
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BROTHER CONRAD'S DEATH MOURNED BY STUDENT BODY

When Brother Conrad entered the attendance office on Tuesday morning who would expect that he would be dead by Wednesday night? He was never plagued by illness outside of the winter cold which most of us can't seem to avoid. He was a hardy man. He loved the outdoors. For a number of years, he was in charge of hiking at Camp Alvernia, where he would help the youngsters who came to the Brothers' camp at Centerport in cooking and shelter arrangements. That wasn't enough; any opportunity that permitted him the chance for camping, he would plan and enjoy with boyish enthusiasm. But, Brother Conrad is now dead.

By ordinary standards he hadn't been a Franciscan Brother for very long. However, in the fifteen years that he was he willingly spent his energies for his students. The Brothers gave Brother Conrad his higher education. His interest in finances might seem strange for one detached from the world and with a vow of Poverty. Yet, he was led to pursue two degrees in the business world because his boys had to be well prepared to meet the sometimes hard and even savages of the world from which they were going to eventually extract their financial support. Very many of his former students agree that they have built a successful livelihood up on the principles which Brother labored to instill in them.

But Brother Conrad is dead—his life almost unrealistically snuffed away by the Creator who lovingly determines the proper occasion and time. Yet in a sense truly larger than death,



Brother Conrad remains. His joyous spirit, for this man could never stop laughing—this was his reaction even to his stroke just before the world of consciousness became veiled in coma—has become a part of the Brothers with whom he lived. His example and devotion, as well as the subjects he taught, are a part of his students.

But Brother Conrad is dead. He gave everything that he could, but who will take his place? Ford will always need a Brother Conrad. Ford's students will find a void within the total picture of development for not having Brother Conrad's dedicated example.

May God grant that sincere religious vocations to the Brothers from Ford replace the loss of this dedicated servant. May God grant your interest to support their preparation.

Pray for Brother Conrad. May he rest in Peace.

FRANCISCAN COSTS ANSWERED BY GUILD

DUTIES OF MEMBERSHIP

1. To pray daily that Almighty God will use the Brothers as His instruments in successfully preparing youth for their life in this world and the next.
2. Their next need of the Franciscan Brothers is an increase of young men who realizing the vast importance of the Brothers work, will follow the Divine call to join their ranks so that following generations may share the same benefits as those presently receiving a Franciscan Education. Guild members should daily include this intention in their prayers.
3. The Guild would ask its members to communicate to others the dignity of the life of a Brother and their urgent work. In this way the great need for Teaching Brothers throughout the whole Church will be recognized.
4. The Guild then requests financial support from its members so that the long, and expensive years of both educational and religious formation can be continued adequately for the young Brothers who will carry their apostolate to future generations.

Associate Member of the Guild	\$ 2
Member of the Guild	\$ 5
Family membership	\$ 10
Corporation membership	\$ 50
Life membership	\$100

PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

1. A daily remembrance in the Common Prayers of the Brooklyn Congregation, Brothers of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis.
2. Twenty-five Holy Masses will be offered annually on behalf of living and deceased members.
3. Two novenas of prayers will be offered for the intention of members prior to the feasts of Saint Francis of Assisi (October 4) and Saint Anthony of Padua, the first Franciscan Teacher, (June 13).
4. A subscription to a newsletter published by the Franciscan Brothers.
5. Opportunities to participate in other Franciscan Brothers activities such as booster club, pilgrimages and religious greeting cards.

*Remember deceased members may be enrolled.

George Meyer Happy At Brothers' Juniorate

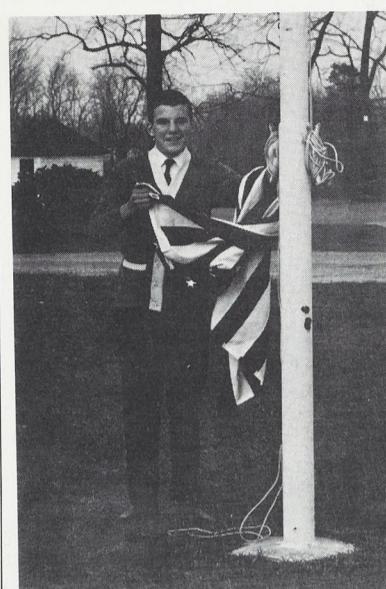
George Meyer is the very first Bishop Ford student to commence training as a Religious. He left Ford last June and commenced training for the Franciscan Brotherhood at Saint Anthony Juniorate.

George may never be a Franciscan Brother. After a lot of prayer and sacrifice he thinks this is what God wants him to do with his life. Between now and the nine and one-half years which he will have to wait for Life Profession of Vows, George will find out for sure.

Right now, George is a very happy guy. He likes the Juniorate which is located in Smithtown, Long Island. Yet George had to make a difficult choice in going there. Ford is a very beautiful school. It offers everything by way of facility and programs; and George could have had the prestige of being in Ford's first graduating class. But George felt that his entering was God's will and as a man interested in his soul's welfare, he willingly complied.

If George eventually becomes a Franciscan Brother, he may some day return to Ford. He may be instructing the sons of the boys who were his classmates at Ford. We have to make sure that the Franciscan Brothers are able to afford all that is necessary for George to become an outstanding teacher.

George has expressed the desire that God will grant many Ford students the joy of joining



him. After all, Christ told us that "his yoke was sweet and his burden light."

All Ford students and their families should pray for George's success and that others will soon follow his example.

Brothers' Student Is Drive Patron

Francis X. Ford, as a youth, would have much in common with most of the students of Bishop Ford High School. He came from a fine family. A Brooklynite living on Carlton Avenue he attended schools taught by the Franciscan Brothers—first, Saint Joseph's on Pacific Street, and then, Saint Francis Prep.

As a student he was average; his Sophomore report card would have given him a place on the "Honorable Mention" list here at Ford. Although he was always on time, he was a "last-minute Charlie." In school his pals called him "Xav," derived from his middle name, dedicating him to the great missionary of the East, Saint Francis Xavier.

Certainly, Francis Ford was a conscientious and very likable boy, but very few would have recognized the seeds of greatness within him.

Like students dedicated to his name, Francis Ford was blessed with that good family and a sound, Franciscan education. Both of these were instrumental in sending Frank forth to inspire the conversion of thousands of Chinese. By 1951, there was no foe of Red Communism as formidable as the Bishop, as Providence determined that Francis Ford, who was called to sacrifice his every comfort and energy in life, should be called upon to give that very life in martyrdom.

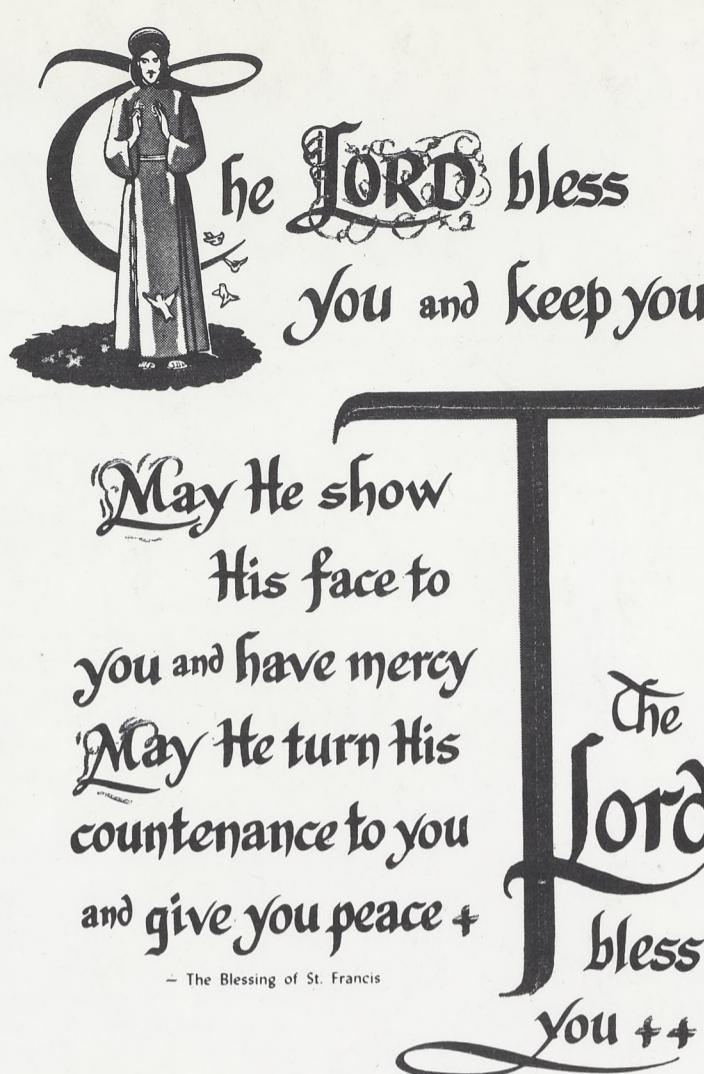
The Communists dragged him through village and town, beaten and cursed at every turn. His greatness was reflected in a prayer he made to be the "King's Highway in Pathless China." God would only grant such a prayer to the most saintly. The prayer was literally answered for Bishop Ford.

The Franciscan Brothers have asked your support because their century of service has taught them that greatness is locked in the mind and heart of each youth. They place the success



of the drive under the protection of their former student, who knows the value of their education. May he inspire you to see the great need of their plea and to support the drive conducted by the Franciscan Brothers and the students of Bishop Ford.

PARENTS' DAY
ON
SUNDAY



FRANCISCAN EDUCATION FLOUNDERS

(Continued from page 1)

Dear Friends of Catholic Education, dear families of the Franciscan Brothers, the Brothers can not continue their services without your generous financial support. The congregation of the Franciscan Brothers has spent every reserve for the training and education of its Brothers. Payments to Universities can no longer be met. The future of Catholic education is at stake for inferior education, because of inferior teachers, will never suffice.

The Bishop of Brooklyn has encouraged the Brothers to bring their plea to the people. As Franciscans following the noble tradition of their saintly founder, the Poor Man of Assisi, they do so unashamedly. They truthfully understand the terrible financial pressures with which these people are already burdened, but their Christian need is so great that they beg these people to accept this added responsibility. They indeed ask not for themselves, for they have already spent themselves of everything; they ask for the Children of God. Their need is so great.

At Bishop Ford High School there begins on December 6th a financial drive under the title of the Franciscan Brothers Guild. At this time the students and their families, their neighbors and places of business, their relatives and neighborhood merchants will be requested to support the Guild. The twenty Franciscan Brothers at Ford privately place the success of the drive under the patronage of a former student who received his elementary and secondary education under their tutelage and who later was ordained, named Bishop and was martyred for the Faith in China—Francis X. Ford.

May his Great Sacrifice inspire you to accept your responsibility.

FBG Success With Ford Families

The students of Bishop Ford High School and their families are the backbone and "work-horses" of the Franciscan Brothers Guild. The Drive for membership opens today with this half-assembly, and rally for the students. On Sunday both parents and students are invited to an informal day at the school. On that day a film in color depicting the houses of training, work, and prayer life of the Franciscan Brothers will be shown. There will be an address given by Doctor James Flynn to the parents. He will discuss the starving need in the church for an increase of teaching Brothers and the value of their work as seen from a layman's stand point.

Tour Follows

Dr. Flynn is a resident of Brooklyn, New York and is Chairman of the Department of Political Science at Saint Francis College. Following his discussion a long awaited tour of this beautiful building will be conducted for the parents.

During the week that the drive will be held there will be many departures from the regular school schedule which will be announced in appropriate time. Following the drive which terminates on December 16th, there will be the awarding of prizes to those students whose success was greatest.

\$25.00 Quota

Just what can students do in order to bring about a successful conclusion of the drive. Each by his hard effort and time must complete his quota of \$25.00. The figure is indeed large but so is the need grave. How can they do it? It may make phone calls to relatives, visits to neighbors, letters to friends whom we haven't seen in a while. Anybody that we know and who shows interest in our welfare should be approached for membership costing five dollars. Remember that the deceased can be enrolled.

Parents Look to Future

How can parents help? The Franciscan Brothers need this family cooperation. Remember this isn't a charity for an individual; this is a charity for your son and grandsons. He needs well-prepared teachers since an ill-trained substitute is not good enough for him. Please endeavor to make your friends, business associates, and places where you do business, members. Suggest people whom your son is overlooking to contact. Encourage him to get out and work to obtain memberships.

The Franciscan Brothers earnestly suggest that their goal in the establishment of the Guild is vital and worth of sacrifice.